

HERMES MERCURY ORBITER: Nelson et. al.

The temperature extremes of the Hermean environment present a challenge to spacecraft thermal design. To respond to these challenges the Hermes spacecraft will employ a variety of active and passive thermal control technologies including concepts as straightforward as sunshields to more sophisticated concepts such as heat pipes.

Hermes will utilize a ground operations system of previously proven design rather than building a new system from scratch. This will be based on the multi-mission support concept in which one ground system will maintain the personnel and equipment for several missions.

The Hermes study shows that by astute use of recent advances in space technology Discovery class missions can remain within budgetary constraints and not compromise quality science.

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